



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Dec. 1, 2009

MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET

MAYOR FLIPS SWITCH ON CANOPY OF LIGHTS, KICKS OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN BALBOA PARK

Mayor Jerry Sanders tonight flipped the switch to turn on the SDG&E Holiday Light Canopy which will decorate the center of the Plaza de Panama during Balboa Park December Nights and throughout the month of December.

The Holiday Light Canopy covers the center of The Prado's plaza with thousands of energy-efficient light-emitting diode (LED) lights.

Through its donation, longtime Balboa Park December Nights sponsor San Diego Gas & Electric is also generating awareness of the energy-efficient holiday lighting now widely available.

Visitors to December Nights will have an opportunity to exchange up to three incandescent holiday light strings for three free, multi-colored LED light strings, as well as exchange up to five incandescent light bulbs for energy-saving compact fluorescent bulbs.

Energy Star Partnership

Sanders also recognized SDG&E for the company's contribution to the sustainability of Balboa Park through its support of the Environmental Protection Agency's ENERGY STAR Partnership Program and an array of energy-efficiency and solar-energy programs.



Celebrate the Season

San Diego's favorite kick-off to the holiday season, the 32nd Balboa Park December Nights will take place for the 32nd consecutive year beginning this Friday, Dec. 4 at 5 p.m. through Saturday at 10 p.m.



The largest free community festival in San Diego, December Nights is expected to attract more than 300,000 visitors and is co-produced by the City of San Diego and the San Diego Business Improvement District (BID) Council. Venue hosts include the Balboa Park Cultural Partnership, House of Hospitality, and City of San Diego Park and Recreation Department.

The beloved San Diego event features theatrical and musical entertainment, sparkling lights and food throughout the Park. "My Ancestors' Village," sponsored by Barona, shares the rich culture of San Diego's Native American community with December Nights visitors. In the spirit of the holidays, participating Balboa Park museums open their doors free of charge from 5-9 p.m. both evenings.

New this year is The Prado Holiday Spirits Lounge and Hospitality Tent, operated by the Cohn Restaurant Group. Executive Chef Jeff Thurston of The Prado has created a menu that will be offered inside Spirits Lounge for adults 21 and up and also available outside for all ages. Menu items include Kobe beef burgers, crispy green beans with blue cheese dip, The Prado's famous tortilla soup, and more.

Getting to December Nights

Free Event Shuttles: Visitors to December Nights can help keep Balboa Park "green" by taking free event shuttles from the County Administration Building North Lot and City College lots. Parking is free and the event shuttle drops visitors off at Park Boulevard and President's Way. Attendees can also park at PETCO Park and the surrounding lots. Parking is \$3.00 per vehicle with more than 2,000 parking spaces in this area. The free event shuttle drops visitors off at Sixth and Laurel streets.

Public Transportation: For an easy ride, leave your car at home and take public transportation to Balboa Park December Nights. To create your personal trip plan visit, www.sdmts.com or call 511 to speak with one of the Transit Information Operators.

For complete details regarding the event, visit www.visitdecemhernights.org.

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